

Message Text

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22

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5703

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3191

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, KU

SUBJ: KUWAITI REACTION TO ISRAELI ENTEBBE OPERATION

1. ALL KUWAIT DAILIES UNANIMOUS IN DENOUNCING ISRAELI RAID ON AIRPORT IN UGANDA. EDITORIALS IN MOST KUWAIT DAILIES CRITICAL OF ISRAELS BUT REACTION ONE OF FRUSTRATION DUE TO SUCCESSFUL PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK. THEREFORE ARABS FEELING MORTIFIED BUT UNABLE COORDINATE RESPONSES. EDITORIALS PRIMARILY ADOPT WRINGING-OF-HANDS ATTITUDE. "AL RAI AL AAM" DISCUSSES "MYTHICAL FEAR SKILLFUL AND INGENIOUS...". AL SIYASSAH COLUMNIST NOTES FACTS ISRAEL SEEMS TO BE NATION "WHICH IS ALWAYS CAPABLE..." AND DEPLORES "DECLARED INNOCENCE ARAB REGIME...". ONLY AL SIYASSAH, IN COLUMN BY MUSTAFA ABU LIBDEH, TOP POLITICAL/ECONOMIC WRITER, IS QUESTION OF AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT RAISED. LIBDEH CALLS OPERATION ONE WHICH MEANT TO AVERT "ESCALATION OF FIGHTING IN LEBANON...CONTRARY TO U.S. POLICY..." "THEREFORE AN OPERATION ON THE WHOLE AMERICAN...". ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY "KUWAIT TIMES" CALLS FOR "A HITLER FOR THE ARABS" IN A VERY EMOTIONAL COMMENTARY

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BY "A PALESTINIAN" AND FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, UNSIGNED, IS

ENTITLED "LAUGH NOW, CRY LATER" WHICH IS BITTER IN DENUNCIATION
ISRAELI AND LOOKS FOR RETALIATION.

2. COMMENT: THE ISRAELI ENTEBBE OPERATION, COMING AS IT DOES ON
TOP OF SEVERAL QUASI-TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN KUWAIT (THE BOMBING
AT SYRIAN AIRLINES AND "AL-ANBA" NEWSPAPER), HAS ONLY UNDERSCORED
TENDER-BOX SECURITY SITUATION IN KUWAIT AND JITTERINESS AMONG
KUWAITI AUTHORITIES. KUWAITIS HAVE BEGUN TO INSTITUTE LATE-
NIGHT RANDOM ROAD CHECKPOINT SEARCHES, SOMETHING UNHEARD OF
IN RECENT TIMES, IN AN EFFORT TO CHECKMATE MOVES BY POTENTIAL
TROUBLE-MAKERS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BOMB SCARE ALSO OCCURRED
AT AIRPORT 2 JULY, LEADING TO EVACUATION OF TERMINAL. INTERIOR
MINISTER SHAYKH SA'D AL-ABDULLAH REPORTEDLY DELIVERED REPORT TO
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON SECURITY SITUATION AT WEEKLY SESSION
TODAY, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AUTHORITIES VERY SERIOUS
ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR VIOLENCE HERE IN NEAR FUTURE.
MAESTRONE

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